

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

an optical disc having a disc region code assigned thereto and having content and a content identifier identifying the content recorded thereon; and

a playback apparatus for playing back the optical disc,

wherein the playback apparatus comprises:

a control unit programmed to judge whether the disc region code assigned to the optical disc matches an apparatus region code assigned to the playback apparatus; and

a playback unit programmed to play back the content when the control unit judges that the disc region code matches the apparatus region code,

wherein, the control unit is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the disc region code does not match the apparatus region code, the control unit judges whether a combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies a predetermined condition defined by an owner of rights of the content,

wherein, the playback unit is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies the predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, the playback unit plays back the content recorded on the optical disc,

wherein, the playback unit is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code does not satisfy the

predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, the playback unit does not play back the content,

wherein the playback apparatus further comprises a transmitting unit programmed to transmit an authorization request to a server apparatus on a network of an external system, the authorization request indicating the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code,

wherein the server apparatus is programmed to transmit an authorization response when, based on the authorization request, the server apparatus has determined that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies the predetermined condition, and

wherein the server apparatus is programmed to transmit a non-authorization response when, based on the authorization request, the server apparatus has determined that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus code does not satisfy the predetermined condition.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a playback authorization list including combinations of a content identifier and a region code, each of the combinations indicating that a content identified by a respective content identifier is allowed to be played back in a region identified by a respective region code; and

the control unit is further programmed to determine that the predetermined condition is satisfied when the playback authorization list of the server apparatus includes the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code indicated by the authorization request transmitted by the transmitting unit of the playback apparatus.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a plurality of pieces of date/time information, each of the plurality of pieces of date/time information indicating, for a corresponding combination of a content identifier and a region code, a release date/time of a content identified by the content identifier for a region identified by the region code of the corresponding combination;

the authorization request transmitted from the transmitting unit of the playback apparatus to the server apparatus includes a combination of (i) a current time in a region to which the playback apparatus belongs, (ii) the content identifier of the content to be played back, and (iii) the apparatus region code; and

the control unit is further programmed to determine that the predetermined condition is satisfied when the current time included in the authorization request is past the release date/time indicated in a piece of date/time information for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the region code included in the authorization request.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The system apparatus of Claim 2, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a plurality of pieces of distributor information, each of the plurality of pieces of distributor information indicating, for a corresponding combination of a content identifier and a region code, a distributor for a region identified by the region code of the corresponding combination;

the authorization request transmitted from the transmitting unit of the playback apparatus to the server apparatus includes a combination of (i) the content identifier of the content to be played back, (ii) the apparatus region code, and (iii) the disc region code; and

the control unit is further programmed to determine that the predetermined condition is satisfied when a distributor indicated in a first piece of distributor information matches a distributor indicated in a second piece of distribution information, the first piece of distributor information indicating a distributor for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code included in the authorization request, and the second piece of distributor information indicating a distributor for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the disc region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the disc region code included in the authorization request.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The system apparatus of Claim 2, wherein:

the server apparatus is programmed to transmit the authorization response along with accompanying information including (i) rating information in a country to which the playback apparatus belongs, and (ii) subtitle data and audio data in a language used in the country to which the playback apparatus belongs; and

the playback unit is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies the predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, the playback unit plays back the content using the accompanying information.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein:

the server apparatus is programmed to transmit the authorization response along with restriction information;

the content includes a digital stream recorded on the optical disc;

the restriction information is one of (i) information that indicates a part of the digital stream as a playback section and (ii) information that causes only a part of elementary streams multiplexed onto the digital stream to be played back; and

the playback unit is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies the predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, the playback unit plays back the content using the restriction information.

Claims 8-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein:

an exception schedule flag is recorded on the optical disc;

the playback apparatus is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code satisfies the predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, and when the exception schedule flag indicates that the optical disc is allowed to be played back, the playback unit plays back the content; and

the playback apparatus is programmed such that, when the control unit judges that the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code does not satisfy the

predetermined condition defined by the owner of the rights of the content, and when the exception schedule flag indicates that the optical disc is prohibited from being played back, the playback unit does not play back the content.

Claims 14-18 (Cancelled)